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Research Division Note #40 - August 12, 1993

ARTISTS INCREASE 54% IN THE 1980s

- The number of artists in the United States increased by 54% between 1980 and 1990, and all 50 states and the District of Columbia participated in this gain. According to 1990 Census occupational data recently released by the Bureau of the Census on computer tapes, the total labor force of artists increased from 1,085,693 in 1980 to 1,671,278 in 1990. This increase is greater than that which took place between 1970 and 1980, when the number of artists increased by 47.3%, from 736,960 in 1970 to 1,085,693 in 1980.

- Of the 11 arts related occupations measured by the Bureau of Census, only authors, designers, photographers, and "other" artists showed a greater percent increase during the eighties than they did during the seventies. These four occupations made up 56.3% of the total number of artists in 1990. For all the occupations that incresed during the eighties, the percents ranged from 5% to 133%. Only teachers of art, drama, and music decreased during the eighties, but by a smaller percent than in the seventies.

- The proportion of artists in the nation's labor force rose significantly over the decade. As reflected in the 11 arts related occupations measured by the Bureau of Census, these artists comprised 1.37 % of the total civilian labor force in 1990, compared with 1.05% in 1980 and .92% in 1970. These figures represent an increase of 14% between 1970 and 1980, and a 30% increase between 1980 and 1990.

According to Census Bureau estimates:

- The total number of actors and directors in 1990 was 109,573. This represents an increase of 64.1% between 1980 and 1990, similar to the increase between 1970 and 1980. In 1990, actors and directors accounted for .089% of the total civilian labor force, compared with .064% in 1980 and .050% in 1970.

- The total number of announcers in 1990 was 60,270. This represents an increase of 28.3% between 1980 and 1990, which is a great deal less than the 81.1% increase between 1970 and 1980. In 1990, announcers accounted for .049% of the total civilian labor force, compared with .045% in 1980 and .033% in 1970.

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- The total number of architects in 1990 was 156,874. This represents an increase of 45.7% between 1980 and 1990, less than half of their 100.7% increase between 1980 and 1970. In 1990, architects accounted for .128% of the total civilian labor force, compared with .104% in 1980 and .067% in 1970.

- The total number of authors in 1990 was 106,730. This represents an increase of 133.3% between 1980 and 1990, twice the 64.5% increase between 1970 and 1980. In 1990, authors accounted for .087% of the total civilian labor force, compared with .044% in 1980 and .035% in 1970.

- The total number of dancers in 1990 was 21,913. This represents an increase of 66.1% between 1980 and 1990, slightly less than the 78.2% increase between 1970 and 1980. In 1990, dancers accounted for only .018% of the total civilian labor force, compared with .013% in 1980 and .009% in 1970.

- The total number of designers in 1990 was 596,802. This represents an increase of 76.4% between 1980 and 1990, compared with 45.3% between 1970 and 1980. In 1990, designers accounted for .487% of the total civilian labor force, compared with .326% in 1980 and .292% in 1970.

- The total number of musicians and composers in 1990 was 148,000. This represents an increase of 5.3% between 1980 and 1990, which is a great deal less than the 41.2 % increase between 1970 and 1980. In 1990, musicians and composers accounted for .121% of the total civilian labor force, less than the .136% in 1980 and the .125% in 1970.

- The total number of painters, sculptors, craft-artists, and artist printmakers in 1990 was 212,762. This represents an increase of 38.9% between 1980 amd 1990, which was approxiamtely half of the the 76.4% increase between 1970 and 1980. In 1990, this group accounted for .174% of the total civilian labor force, compared with .148% in 1980 and .109% in 1970.

- The total number of photographers in 1990 was 143,520. This represents an increase of 51.5% between 1980 and 1990, which was slightly greater than the 40.2% increase between 1970 and 1980. In 1990, photographers accounted for .117% of the total civilian labor force, compared with .091% in 1980 and .085% in 1970.

- The total number of teachers of art, drama, and music in 1990 was 21,393. This represents a decrease of 24.6% between 1980 and 1990, slightly less than the 32.4% decrease between 1970 and 1980. In 1990, this group accounted for only .017% of the total civilian labor force, down from .027% in 1980 and .053% in 1970.

- The total number of artists, performers, and related workers not classified elsewhere was 93,421 in 1990. This represents an increase of 88.1% between 1980 and 1990, after having decreased by 6.5% between 1970 and 1980. In 1990, this group accounted for .076% of the total civilian labor force, compared with .048% in 1980 and .067% in 1970.

Table 1. Artists in the Labor Force by Occupation: 1970 to 1990

	1990			1980			1970	
	Number of Artists	Percent of Total U.S. Labor Force*	Percent Increase 1980-90	Number of Artists	Percent of Total U.S. Labor Force*	Percent Increase 1970-80	Number of Artists	Percent of Total U.S. Labor Force*
All Artists	1,671,278	1.365%	53.9%	1,085,693	1.050%	47.3%	736,960	0.923%
Actors/Directors	109,573	0.089%	64.1%	66,782	0.064%	67.1%	39,969	0.050%
Announcers	60,270	0.049%	28.3%	46,986	0.045%	81.1%	25,942	0.033%
Architects	156,874	0.128%	45.7%	107,693	0.104%	100.7%	53,670	0.067%
Authors**	106,730	0.087%	133.3%	45,748	0.044%	64.8%	27,752	0.035%
Dancers	21,913	0.018%	66.1%	13,194	0.013%	78.2%	7,404	0.009%
Designers	596,802	0.487%	76.4%	338,374	0.326%	45.3%	232,890	0.292%
Musicians/Composers	148,020	0.121%	5.3%	140,556	0.136%	41.2%	99,533	0.125%
Painters, et al	212,762	0.174%	38.9%	153,162	0.148%	76.4%	86,849	0.109%
Photographers	143,520	0.117%	51.5%	94,762	0.091%	40.2%	67,588	0.085%
Teachers of arts***	21,393	0.017%	-24.6%	28,385	0.027%	-32.4%	42,000	0.053%
Other artists	93,421	0.076%	88.1%	49,653	0.048%	-6.5%	53,131	0.067%

* The labor force is the same as that presented in the Equal Employment Opportunity data file released by the Census Bureau. The 1990 census total for the experienced civilian labor force is 123,044,450. The labor force in the Equal Employment File is 122,473,499, which represents all the persons assigned an occupation code.

** Numbers not entirely compatible due to modification in the definition of "authors" in the occupational classification used in the 1990 census.

*** The decline in "teachers of arts" may be attributable to the fact that substantially fewer teachers specified their subject area in the 1990 census than in the 1980 census (as was the case for the 1980 and 1970 censuses)